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Item 74 of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 1 August 2000 from the representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint statement by the President of the People's Republic of China and the President of the Russian Federation on anti-missile defence, adopted in Beijing on 18 July 2000 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly under item 74 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Yingfan
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Gennady **Gatilov**
First Deputy Permanent Representative of the
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Annex to the letter dated 1 August 2000 from the representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint statement by the President of the People's Republic of China and the President of the Russian Federation on anti-missile defence

The President of the People's Republic of China and the President of the Russian Federation state the following:

The development of the international situation has fully confirmed the conclusions and assessments regarding anti-missile defence, set forth in the joint statement entitled "Chinese-Russian relations on the threshold of the twenty-first century", adopted at the highest level on 23 November 1998, the Chinese-Russian press communiqué on consultations on questions concerning the ABM Treaty of 14 April 1999, and also the Chinese-Russian joint declaration of 10 December 1999, which was adopted at the highest level.

The 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, hereinafter referred to as the ABM Treaty, remains the cornerstone of global strategic stability and international security and constitutes the basis for the framework of the key international agreements on reducing and limiting strategic offensive weapons and on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Maintaining and strictly complying with the ABM Treaty are extremely important.

In this connection, the plan by the United States of America to create a national anti-missile defence system for that country's territory, which is prohibited under the ABM Treaty, has given rise to profound concern. China and the Russian Federation believe that this plan, in essence, aims to seek unilateral superiority in the military sphere and security matters. The implementation of such a plan would have the most serious negative consequences not only for the security of China, the Russian Federation and other States, but also for the security of the United States itself, and for global strategic stability throughout the world. Therefore, China and the Russian Federation firmly express their opposition to this plan.

Undermining the ABM Treaty would trigger a new spiral in the arms race and reverse the positive trends that have come about in world politics since the end of the "cold war". This, without any doubt, is not in the fundamental interests of any State in the world. The States that are calling for a review of this fundamental weapons-reduction treaty will bear the complete responsibility for undermining international stability and security as well as for all the resulting consequences.

An analysis of current international conditions shows the total lack of any grounds for using the so-called missile threat posed by certain States as a pretext for justifying demands to amend the ABM Treaty. The proposals for the Treaty's so-called "adaptation" are designed to conceal a desire to act contrary to its provisions. Changing the contents of the ABM Treaty's text is tantamount to destroying the Treaty, with all the resultant negative consequences. In the current strategic situation, maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the ABM Treaty is of extremely important and real significance.

The correct way to react to new challenges in the area of international security, maintaining peace throughout the world and protecting the legitimate security interests of any State is not to destroy the ABM Treaty, but rather to promote the establishment of a just and rational new international political order, reject methods based on power politics and the excessive use of armed force in international affairs, and further strengthen regional and global security. At the same time, it is important for the Russian Federation and the United States, on the basis of strict observance of the ABM Treaty, to continue and to deepen the process of reducing strategic offensive weapons, engaging other nuclear Powers in the future at the appropriate time. It is essential, through political, legal and diplomatic means, to step up international efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, explore the possibility of gradually establishing a global system for monitoring the non-proliferation of missiles and missile technology, and develop a broad and non-discriminatory dialogue and cooperation in this field.

Non-strategic anti-missile defence and international cooperation in this area, which are not prohibited under the ABM Treaty, must not be to the detriment of the security interests of other countries, lead to the establishment or strengthening of exclusive military or political blocs, or undermine global and regional stability and security. On the basis of this position, China and the Russian Federation express serious concern and enter a strong protest in connection with the plans of certain States to deploy in the Asia-Pacific region such a non-strategic missile defence system, which will lead to the above-mentioned negative consequences. Including Taiwan in any form in anti-missile defence systems set up by foreign States is unacceptable and will seriously undermine stability in the region.

The General Assembly resolution on preservation of and compliance with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, adopted at its fifty-fourth session, is of prime importance. China and the Russian Federation call upon the world community to continue to give serious attention to the actions by the States in question aimed at speeding up the development of anti-missile defence systems, which could destroy the global strategic balance and stability in the world, and also to take the necessary measures to forestall such dangerous developments.

The cooperation carried out between China and the Russian Federation up to the present in maintaining the global strategic balance and stability is cause for satisfaction. Building on the relations of equitable, trusting partnership and strategic cooperation between the two countries, China and the Russian Federation will continue their close cooperation with regard to the above-mentioned questions and, within the framework of their respective international obligations, will also strengthen cooperation in other areas related to these issues in order to ensure their own, regional and global security.

Jiang Zemin
President of the People's Republic of China

V. V. **Putin**
President of the Russian Federation

Beijing, 18 July 2000

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Items 10, 11, 61, 62, 68, 74, and 96 of the provisional agenda*

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

Report of the Security Council

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Maintenance of international security

General and complete disarmament

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 3 August 2000 from the representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Beijing Declaration, issued by the Presidents of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation on 18 July 2000 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 10, 11, 61, 62, 68, 74 and 96 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Yingfan
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Gennadi M. **Gatilov**
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 3 August 2000 from the representatives of China and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Beijing Declaration issued by the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China

At the invitation of the President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Jiang Zemin, the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, made an official visit to the People's Republic of China from 17 to 19 July 2000. Official talks between the heads of State of the Russian Federation and China were held in Beijing.

During his visit, Mr. Putin held meetings with the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Mr. Li Peng, the Prime Minister of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Zhu Rongji, and the Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Mr. Li Ruihuan.

The heads of the two States, having thoroughly considered the development of ties between the Russian Federation and China over the past decade, noted with satisfaction that the establishment of relations based on equal and confidential partnership and geared towards strategic interaction in the twenty-first century was fully in keeping with the basic interests of the peoples of the two countries. They stressed that the development of relations based on equal and confidential partnership and strategic interaction was of great importance for the strengthening of all-round cooperation between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, and the consolidation of the friendship between the peoples of the Russian Federation and China, and promoted the formation of a multipolar world and a new, just and rational international order.

The heads of the two States believe that, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, there are even greater prospects for the development of Russian-Chinese relations. The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China intend, on the basis of strategic interaction, to deepen their good-neighbourly relations and friendship, broaden mutually advantageous cooperation and work towards the development and prosperity of the two countries. The two States shall strengthen their interaction in international affairs and promote peace and stability throughout the world.

In the light of the foregoing, the heads of State of the Russian Federation and China declare the following:

I

All joint political instruments that have been signed and adopted by the Russian Federation and China shall serve as a firm foundation for the favourable development of bilateral relations. Committed to the spirit and principles of those instruments, the Russian Federation and China are determined to work tirelessly to raise their mutual relations to a new level.

II

The Russian Federation and China shall continue to encourage ongoing and close contacts between senior leaders of the two countries through various channels and to exchange views on the most important issues concerning their bilateral relations and the international situation. The internal affairs, defence, law-enforcement, economic and scientific and technological agencies of the two countries shall support regular and close contacts, strengthen coordination and enhance cooperation. This shall contribute to the further deepening of mutual understanding and confidence between the two countries and the strengthening of all-round Russian-Chinese strategic interaction.

III

In the international arena, the Russian Federation and China shall support the forces of peace, stability, development and cooperation and oppose hegemony, policies based on the use of force or blocs, attempts to revise the fundamental norms of international law, and efforts to exert pressure through the use of force or interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

As permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations, the Russian Federation and China shall undertake joint action to support the leading role of the United Nations and the Security Council in international affairs, particularly in the maintenance of peace and security, thereby contributing to the development of multipolarity in the world.

The heads of the two States expressed their satisfaction at the results of the meeting of the leaders of the countries of the Shanghai Five in Dushanbe on 5 July 2000, a meeting in which the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan took part, and believe that cooperation among the five States is entering a new phase. The Russian Federation and China are prepared to contribute in every way possible to the strengthening of interaction within the Shanghai Five.

There is mutual understanding between the Russian Federation and China on the question of guaranteeing security and stability in the regions contiguous with their territories.

IV

The purpose of the joint statement on anti-missile defence issued by the President of the Russian Federation and the President of the People's Republic of China, which was signed at this summit meeting, is to strengthen global and regional strategic stability, preserve the existing system of treaties in the field of arms control and disarmament, promote the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery and safeguard the security interests of all States without exception.

An analysis of the current international situation demonstrates the complete untenability of the use by some States of the so-called "missile threat" as grounds for their demands for the amendment of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

V

The Russian Federation and China, proceeding from respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, resolutely oppose any schemes or actions by internal or external forces aimed at dividing the State, and express their understanding and support for each other's efforts to defend the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State.

National separatism, international terrorism, religious extremism and transboundary crime pose a serious threat to the security of sovereign States and to world peace and stability. The Russian Federation and China are resolved to take active and effective concrete measures at the bilateral and multilateral levels to combat the aforementioned phenomena.

VI

The Russian Federation confirms its consistent position of principle on the question of Taiwan, namely, that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government of China and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of Chinese territory. The Russian Federation does not support the concept of "Taiwanese independence" in any form and supports the rejection by the People's Republic of China of the concept of "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan". The Russian Federation opposes the admission of Taiwan to membership of the United Nations and other international organizations whose members are only sovereign States. The Russian Federation has no intention of delivering arms to Taiwan.

The People's Republic of China expressed its sincere gratitude to the Russian Federation for its position on the question of Taiwan and its consistent support for the "one China" principle.

The Russian Federation and China consider inadmissible the interference of external forces in the settlement of the question of Taiwan, which is an exclusively internal affair of China, and stress that such attempts can only lead to an escalation of tension in the Asia and Pacific region.

VII

The further all-round and comprehensive development of cooperation between the Russian Federation and China in the fields of trade and economy, science and technology and military technology is one of the principal areas for broadening and deepening Russian-Chinese relations based on an equal and confidential partnership and strategic interaction.

The heads of the two States expressed their satisfaction with the operation of the mechanism of regular meetings of the heads of Government of the Russian Federation and China and believe that that mechanism plays an important role in promoting cooperation in the areas of trade and economy, science and technology, defence, energy (including petroleum and gas), transport, the nuclear industry, aviation and space, and banking.

The Russian Federation and China shall make efforts to increase bilateral cooperation in specific areas with a view to further strengthening the material basis

for strategic interaction between the two countries. The Russian Federation and China shall consider opportunities for Russian participation in the development of the western regions of the People's Republic of China, including the exploitation of petroleum and gas deposits and the construction of gas pipelines.

They emphasized the need to strengthen and broaden bilateral cooperation in the fields of science and technology, education, culture and sport.

VIII

The successful implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the joint economic exploitation of individual islands and the adjacent waters of border rivers of 9 December 1999, which has no historical precedent, is yet another important step towards transforming the Russian-Chinese border into a zone of good-neighbourliness and friendship.

The Russian Federation and China intend to continue, in a constructive and businesslike spirit, negotiations with a view to speeding up the formulation of options for resolving the question of disputed segments of the border between the two States. Until such time, the status quo in the disputed segments of the border between the two States shall be maintained.

IX

The Russian Federation and China expressed their satisfaction in connection with the beginning of the practical implementation of agreements between the Russian Federation, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on confidence-building in the military field and mutual reduction of armed forces in the border area. The scrupulous fulfilment of the provisions of those agreements shall promote peace, tranquillity, stability and prosperity in the border area and the development of good-neighbourly relations among all States parties to the agreements. They acknowledged the advisability of considering further opportunities for building confidence in the military field.

X

The friendship between the peoples of the two countries, which has been handed down from generation to generation, is in keeping with the common aspirations of the peoples of the Russian Federation and China. The consolidation of that friendship requires the broad participation and tireless efforts of both the organs of authority and the peoples of the two countries. To this end, they shall vigorously support the activities of the Russian-Chinese Committee on Friendship, Peace and Development and shall encourage various kinds of social contacts.

XI

In order to consolidate long-term and stable relations between the two States on the basis of good-neighbourliness and friendship, mutual trust and mutual advantage, the heads of the two States agreed to begin negotiations on the drafting of a Russian-Chinese treaty on good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation.

XII

The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, invited the President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Jiang Zemin, to make an official visit to the Russian Federation at a suitable time in 2001. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. The dates of the visit shall be established through the diplomatic channel.

President of the People's Republic of China
Jiang Zemin

President of the Russian Federation
V. V. **Putin**

Beijing, 18 July 2000